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## **Concern With the Department's Replacement of Body Armor**

In researching potential audit areas, an Office of Inspector General (OIG) team conducted research on the Department's use of body armor. The team collected related documentation and interviewed officials from two units of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) – the Office of Physical Security Programs, Defensive Equipment and Armored Vehicle Division (DS/PSP/DEAV), and the International Programs, Overseas Protective Operations, High Threat Protection Division. OIG will not be initiating an audit at this time, but it identified one concern, which it wanted to bring to the Department's attention.

DS/PSP/DEAV does not have written policies and procedures that provide detailed guidelines on the inspection and replacement of body armor after the service life of the body armor has expired. Lives could be at greater risk in a firefight or other dangerous situation if the body armor's protective capabilities have deteriorated over the years, particularly in hot and humid climates. DS should develop and disseminate written policies and procedures that provide guidelines on the inspection and replacement of body armor and should replace body armor as appropriate.

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The fieldwork for OIG Report AUD/SI-08-21 was conducted by the Office of Audits from August 2007 to November 2007 at Washington, D.C. This is an unclassified summary of a full memorandum report, which may receive limited official distribution.

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